

Survival, Escape, Resistance and Evasion (SERE) Level C (SERE-C) Training

What is it?

SERE Level C training is an intensely physical and mentally challenging training program providing knowledge and skills development relative to survival, evasion, resistance to exploitation and escape from captivity and is a prerequisite to Flight School. SERE-C is a 21-day course and provides knowledge and skills supporting the Code of Conduct and survival fieldcraft with emphasis and application to worldwide environments. Specifically, it provides instruction and techniques in both individual and team environments during laboratory exercises and Field Training Exercises (FTX), in wartime, peacetime, and hostage detention scenarios. Information provided during this course of instruction applies equally to all active and Reserve component personnel of the Department of Defense armed forces of the United States specified by DOD Directive 1300.7, 1300.21 and AR 350-30.

What has Army Aviation done?

Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 1300.7 established the requirement for military services to conduct Code of Conduct / SERE training for specific levels of service members at risk of capture in performance of their duties. DOD Instruction (DODI) 1300.21 further defined specific military occupations as high-risk (i.e., combat aircrews) and provided additional fidelity to standards of Code of Conduct / SERE training to be provided by the services for members in high-risk service occupations. These standards are referred to as SERE Level C core competencies. To meet, execute and establish the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence SERE-C program in accordance with the program guidance, 1st Aviation Brigade developed a SERE-C concept plan. The intent of the USAACE SERE-C program is to provide instruction to combat aviation aircrew members, and also make training available to Special Operations Forces (SOF), non-SOF personnel, military attaches, and, as required, to other military services and/or Federal agencies requiring such training prior to deployment of their personnel to areas where increased risk of capture may exist. SERE-C currently runs two classes each month and has the capacity to graduate approximately 1,700 students per year.

What continued efforts does Army Aviation have planned for the future?

USAACE proposed a Military Construction, Army (MCA) project be initiated that will provide a new self contained, mission critical training operations center at one location. The complex will provide key functional areas for Student In/Out Processing, Headquarters, a Secure Compartmentalized Information Facility (SCIF), administrative, classrooms, barracks, overnight barracks, dining facility, mini-resistance training lab, gymnasium, storage / supply / warehouse areas, small arms storage, and a combative's Physical Training Area. The project includes utilities, pavements and site improvements, landscaping, fire protection, communications, and all necessary support equipment.

Why is this important to the Army and Army Aviation?

Since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), U.S. military forces face a war in which the potential captivity threat environment is increasingly more difficult to define. Current and future military operations provide the opportunity for our Nation's enemies as well as rogue criminal groups to isolate, detain, and/or capture American

Soldiers. Based on intelligence gathered in current GWOT areas of operation, as well as past historical experiences, such captivity incidents are not merely consequences of war, but an objective of an adversary seeking to challenge the national will of the United States and our Allies. Lessons Learned from past and current isolation, detention, and/or captivity situations reveal Soldiers without fundamental SERE-C competencies are not able to mitigate certain risks inherent in military operations, and become factors in the isolating incident and increased risks to others during personnel recovery rescue operations.

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